

Claims

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11. The method of claim 9 wherein the analysis feature creates output and wherein at least some of the output of the analysis feature is changed in the automatic updating.
- 5 12. A computer-aided design (CAD) system, comprising:
an analysis for application to at least a portion of a feature-based model of an object to yield results; and
a feature generator for generating features for the feature-based model, including at least one feature that contains the analysis.
- 10 13. The CAD system of claim 12 wherein the feature generator generates at least one feature capturing the results from the analysis.
14. In a computer system, a method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
15 providing a parametric feature-based model of an object;
providing an analysis that is applied to the parametric feature-based model to produce results;
applying the analysis to the parametric feature-based model to produce results;
20 based on the analysis and the results, determining whether the parametric feature-based model satisfies a requirement; and
based on this determination, performing an action.
- 15 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the analysis is incorporated into a feature of the parametric feature-based model.
- 25 16. The method of claim 14 wherein the computer system includes a computer-aided design (CAD) package that provides the parametric feature-based model.
- 30 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the analysis is user-defined by a user of the computer system.
18. The method of claim 16 wherein the analysis is provided and applied by a program other than the CAD package.
- 35 19. In a computer-aided design (CAD) system that has a parametric feature-based model of an object, a method comprising the steps of:

applying the analysis to the model multiple times to produce results, each time with different sets of values for the selected set of parameters; and

choosing at least one of the set of values for the selected sets of parameters based on the results from applying the analysis to the model multiple times.

- 10 20. The method of claim 19 wherein the analysis is incorporated into a feature of the
parametric feature-based model.
21. The method of claim 19 wherein the values of the selected set of parameters that
produces an optimal result are chosen.
- 15 22. The method of claim 19 wherein at least one of the sets of values of the selected
parameters that produce results that satisfy a requirement are chosen.
23. In a computer-aided design (CAD) system having a feature-based model of an
20 object, a computer-readable medium holding computer-executable instructions for
performing, a method, comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
 providing a feature-based model of an object;
 performing an analysis for acting on at least a portion of the model;
 creating at least one selected feature based in the analysis of the model
25 that contains the selected feature; and
 adding the selected feature to the model of the object.
24. The computer-readable medium of claim 23 wherein the analysis is an
engineering analysis.
- 30 25. The computer-readable medium of claim 23 wherein the method further
comprises the steps of performing the analysis on the model to yield results.
26. The computer-readable medium of claim 25 wherein the results of the analysis
35 comprise graphical information.

27. In a computer-aided design (CAD) system having a feature-based model of an object, a computer-readable medium holding computer executable instructions for performing a method, comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

- performing an analysis on the model to yield results;
- 5 creating an analysis feature based on the analysis and the results;
- modifying the model so that when the analysis is performed again on the model new results are yielded; and
- automatically updating the analysis feature based on the new results.

10 28. The computer-readable medium of claim 27 wherein the analysis is an engineering analysis.

29. The computer-readable medium of claim 27 wherein the analysis feature creates output and wherein at least one of the outputs of the analysis feature is changed in the
15 automatic updating.

30. In a computer system having a feature-based model of an object, a computer-readable medium holding computer-executable instructions for performing a method, comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
20 performing an analysis on at least a portion of the model to yield results;
representing the results as one or more selected features in the model; and
creating at least one new feature that references at least one of the selected features.

25 31. In a computer system having a feature-based model of an object having parameters, a computer-readable medium holding computer-executable instructions for performing a method, comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
performing an analysis on at least a portion of the model wherein the analysis produces results based on a set of values for a selected set of parameters
30 of the model;
applying the analysis to the model multiple times to produce results, each time with a different set of values for the selected parameters;
choosing the values for the selected set of parameters for which the results from applying the analysis are optimal; and
35 creating at least one new feature that references the optimal results of the analysis.

32. In a computer system having a feature-based model of an object, a method, comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

providing an analysis for application to at least a portion of the model to yield results;

5 creating a feature that references the analysis; and

incorporating the feature into the model without incorporating the analysis into the model.

33. The method of claim 32 wherein the method is performed by a computer-aided
10 design (CAD) system.

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